



State of New Jersey

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
HEALTH / AGRICULTURE BUILDING
PO Box 330
TRENTON NJ 08625-0330

DOUGLAS H. FISHER
Secretary

April 1, 2009

The Honorable Frank LoBiondo
U.S. House of Representatives
2427 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman LoBiondo:

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture strongly supports the Gypsy Moth Pest Management program for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill. The gypsy moth is the most destructive forest insect pest to infest New Jersey's forests. Repeated defoliation by the gypsy moth represents a serious threat to New Jersey woodland and shade tree resources. This project will have significant benefits for southern New Jersey by offering cost share funds to local municipalities.

The Department's Gypsy Moth Suppression Program is a voluntary cooperative program involving New Jersey municipalities, county agencies, state agencies, and the USDA Forest Service. In order to protect New Jersey's valuable forest resources, the Department conducts aerial defoliation and ground egg mass surveys, monitors the application and evaluates the efficacy of the spray material.

The funds will be used to support and enhance gypsy moth control on effected communities and public lands. Funds will be used to cost share aerial treatments borne by local municipalities; for outreach in developing a web-based interactive online map showing the distribution of gypsy moth in New Jersey and proposed treatment areas; and for technical support for salaries for field scouts and vehicle operation.

Thank you for your consideration of this project request.

Sincerely,

Douglas H. Fisher